



# *P*roclamation

## *Pacific 500 Renaissance Month*

### *September, 2013*

- WHEREAS, 2013 marks the 500th anniversary of when Spanish conquistador and explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa in Panama, on September 23, 1513, became the first European to see the Pacific Ocean and claimed the waters and all of its shores for Spain; and
- WHEREAS, in 1507, the German cartographer Martin Waldenseemuller printed the globe map with the name America, to first depict a new continent, not of Europe, Africa or Asia, and the image of anew western ocean, now known as the Pacific; and
- WHEREAS, the California name originates in the myth of Queen Calafia as the beautiful African warrior queen who ruled her island realm of riches, first introduced around 1500 by the Spanish writer Garci Rodriguez de Montalvo's popular novel entitled Las Seguras de Esplandian (The Adventures of Esplandian), to inspire the searching Conquistadors to believe they might find a nation of women and fertility somewhere on the Pacific Coast at the edge of the known world; and
- WHEREAS, in 1769, the King of Spain authorized the last colony of Alta California on the Pacific, for ships from San Blas-Mexico arriving to secure safe harbors for the Acapulco-Manila trade, maintained as a commercial route linking the Philippines with Mexico and Peru from 1565 until 1815; and
- WHEREAS, in 1821, Mexican Independence of Alta California Province attracted explorers, immigrants, individualists and youth from all the empires of Britain, Russia, Prussia, France, United States, Portugal, China that came by way of Pacific maritime routes, in particular, sailing around the Cape Horn of South America, and voyaging from ports in Chile, Hawaii, Alaska, Australia, as well as the overland routes from Mexico and Missouri; and
- WHEREAS, the bio-interaction movement across the world oceans of pioneer populations and animals caused new germs to introduce new diseases, often devastating the indigenous inhabitants, but resulted in the cultivation of agricultural staples to support a growing population; and
- WHEREAS, Californians benefit from the Pacific-America world view by being ready to explore the push-pull analysis of influences in history, using the geo-knowledge framework of geography-geology, climate-botany, transportation-commerce, and human settlement and migration;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lowell Hurst, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the Watsonville City Council do hereby proclaim the month of September 2013 as, "*Pacific 500 Renaissance Month*" in the City of Watsonville and encourage citizens to help reawaken California's thirst for understanding the unique fact that the global diversity of seafaring populations shaped the cultural capacity for creativity in enterprise in the history of California, and expand knowledge around the world for peace on this monumental occasion.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 23rd day of September, two thousand and thirteen.

Lowell Hurst, Mayor

WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA